

Public Health committee Public Hearing on SB374

March 8, 2013

Committee Members,

My name is Domenico Colandrea. I am here to speak against Senate Bill 374. I am upset by many of the flaws that this bill contains, but the things that bother me most as a father are that it violates the rights of all parents and it may violate privacy laws. No one has the right to perform any kind of test on my child without the consent of my wife or myself.

We as parents would like to find solutions to help children with mental health needs. Bill 374 does not answer these needs. This bill is unnecessary since IDEA and state special education laws already require local boards, with parental consent, to identify and assess all the children in the community who have serious emotional problems. There are already laws on the books to provide for children whose needs are being neglected, and these laws are used regularly by the juvenile court system.

The legislature should not be in a hurry to adopt a bill that is unconstitutional and violates our parental rights. Rather, please take the time to thoughtfully consider amending and consolidating existing statutes, improving accessibility and increasing funding to existing programs so that the families who are already seeking help for their children can obtain the services they desperately need. Governor Malloy plans to cut \$1.8 Billion from the budget, don't pass a law that cannot be funded.

We should remain the Constitution State and not become the Forced Mental Health Assessment State.

Thank you.